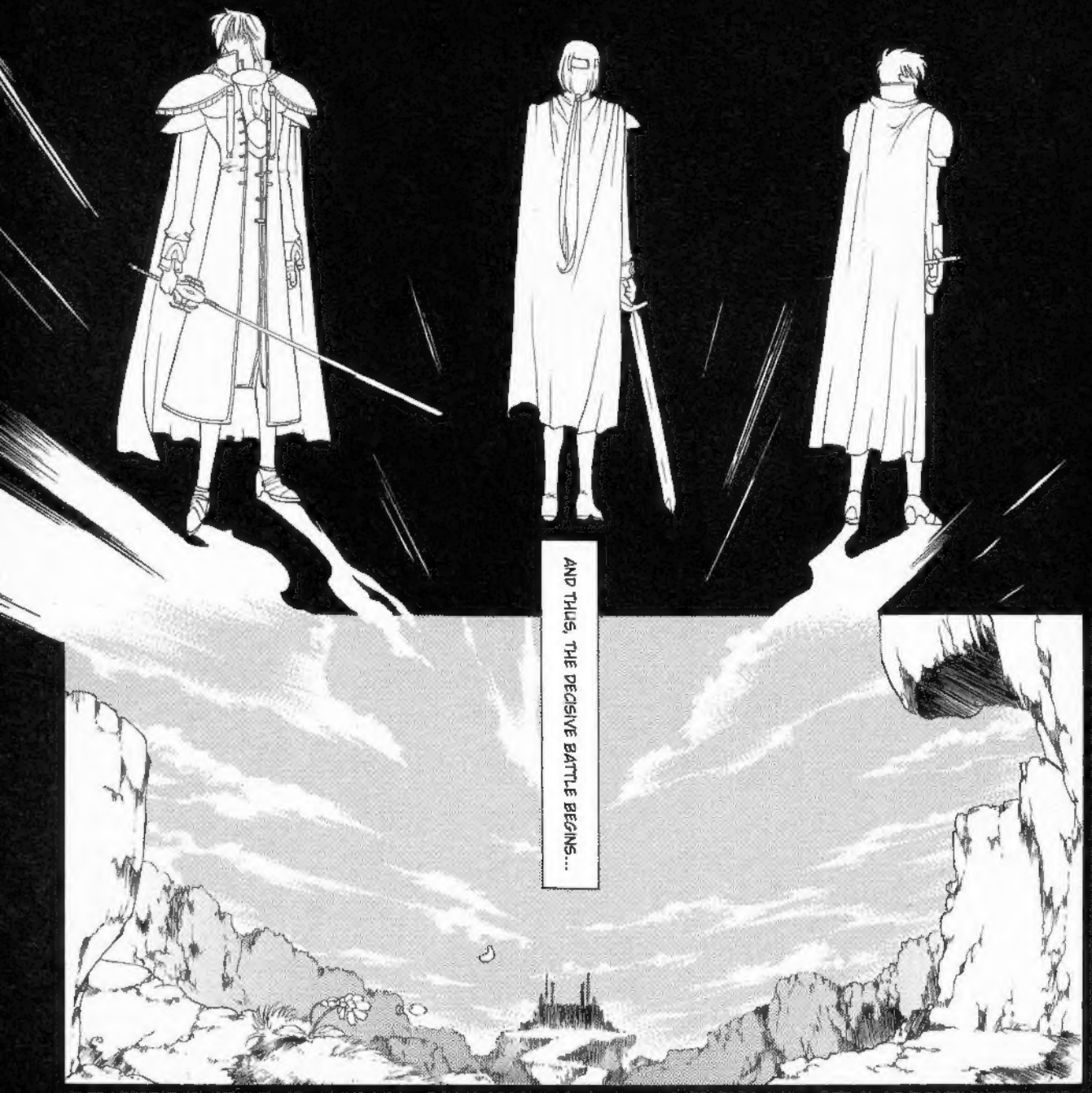
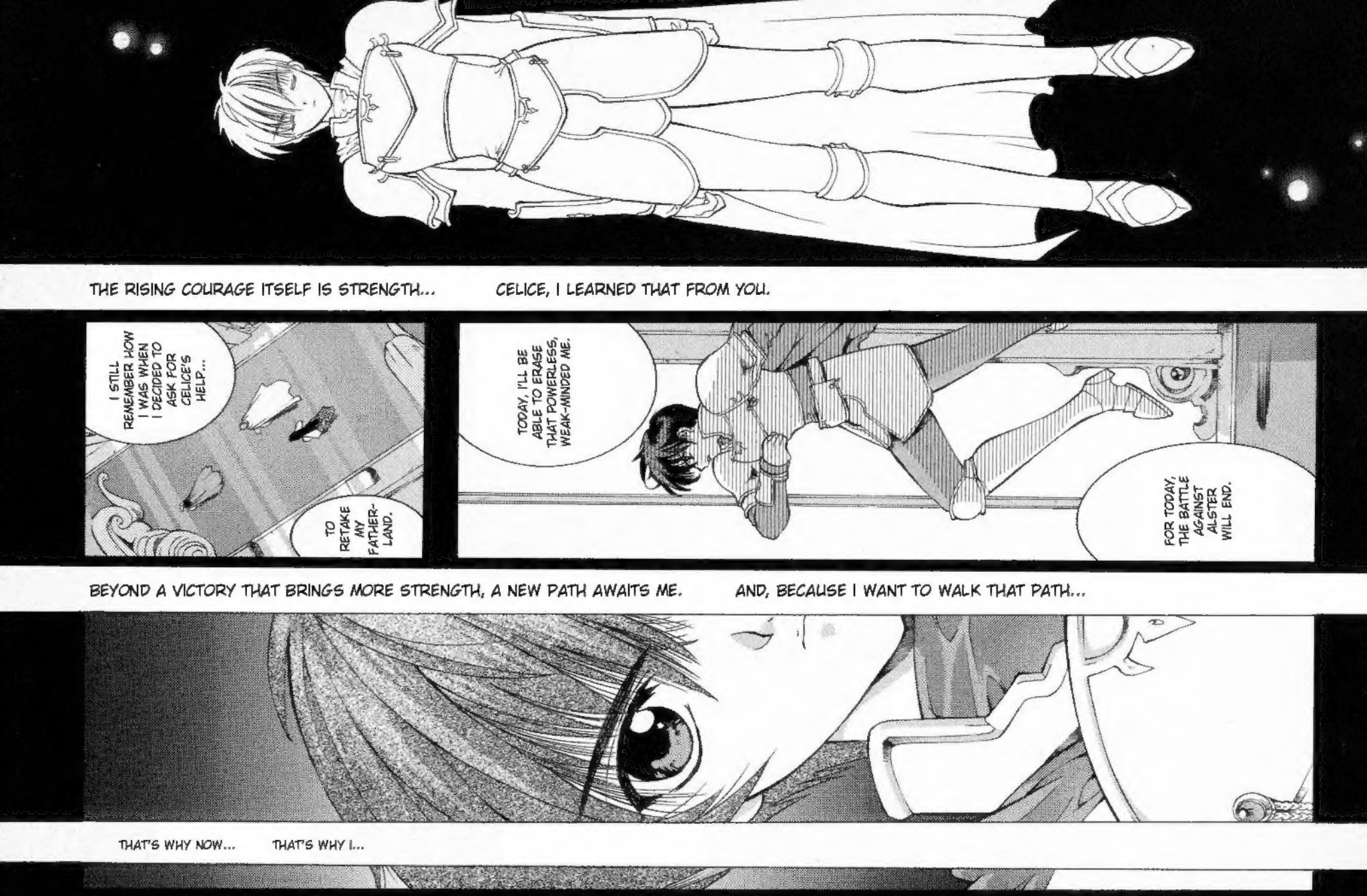
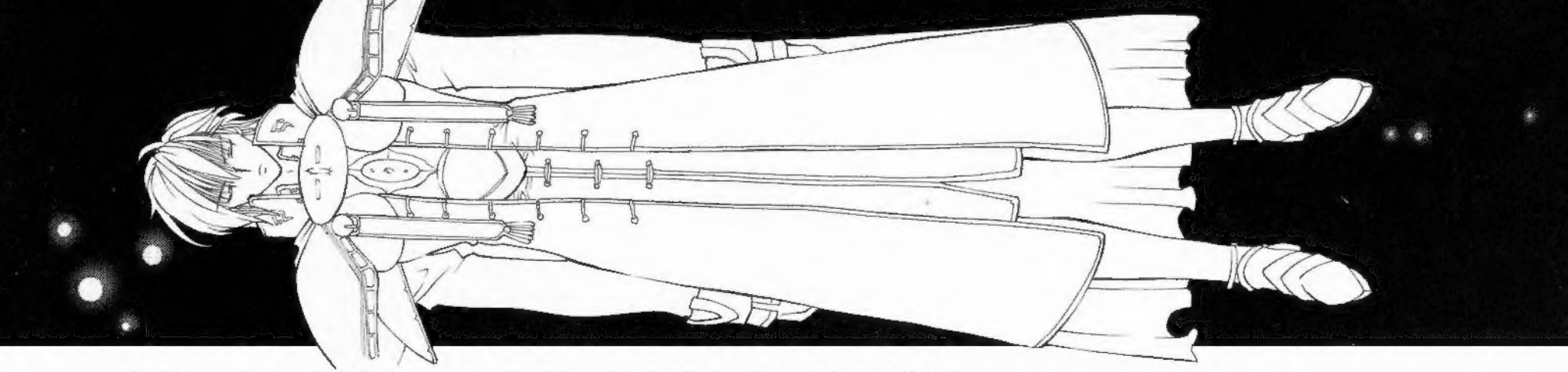
第10話 決戦

CHAPTER 10: DECISIVE BATTLE




THE RISING COURAGE ITSELF IS STRENGTH...
CELICE, I LEARNED THAT FROM YOU.
I STILL REMEMBER HOW I WAS WHEN I DECIDED TO ASK FOR CELICE'S HELP...
TO RETAKE MY FATHER-LAND.
TODAY, I'LL BE ABLE TO ERASE THAT POWERLESS, WEAK-MINDED ME.
FOR TODAY, THE BATTLE AGAINST ALSTER WILL END.
BEYOND A VICTORY THAT BRINGS MORE STRENGTH, A NEW PATH AWAITS ME.
AND, BECAUSE I WANT TO WALK THAT PATH...
THAT'S WHY NOW...
THAT'S WHY I...



I THOUGHT I COULDN'T ESCAPE IT... MY OWN DARKNESS, NOTHING BUT A CLUSTER OF HATRED.

YOUR WOUNDS AREN'T COMPLETELY HEALED YET, RIGHT?
CAN YOU FIGHT?
I'M FINE.
BECAUSE EVERYONE... IS SUPPORTING ME.
FOR I, TOO, AM NOT ALONE.
YOU TOO...

BUT I SAW... LIGHT INSIDE OF IT.

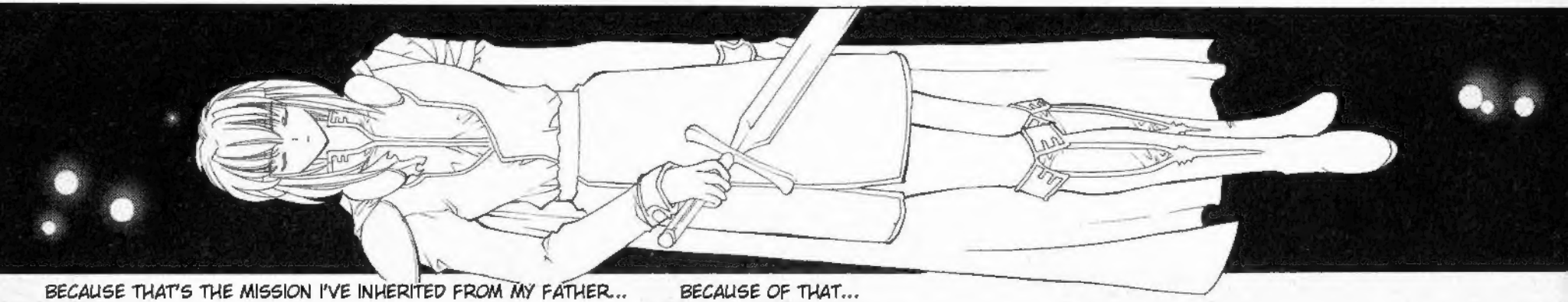
OH, LIGHT THAT GUIDED ME. NOW, I SHALL SWING THIS SWORD FOR YOU...

I CANNOT LET ALESS HANDLE THE BURDEN OF BATTLE ALONE.
EVEN THOUGH IT HAS CLOSED, I'M SURE IT STILL HURTS!
RANA...
THEN I'LL GO WITH YOU!!
I WANT YOU TO TAKE CARE OF JULIA.
COULD YOU PROTECT THEM IN CASE ANYTHING HAPPENS, LEVIN?
ARE YOU REALLY PLANNING TO GO DESPITE THAT WOUND?
LORD CELICE TOO...!
SO, I'M OFF.
LEAVE IT TO ME.

YOU DON'T NEED TO CARRY THAT BURDEN ALONE, EITHER...
EVEN IF WE'RE APART, EVERY-ONE... IS SUP-PORTING EACH OTHER... AND YOU, LORD CELICE... WITH THEIR HEARTS.

BECAUSE EVERYONE IS SUPPORTING ME... I CAN KEEP WALKING FORWARD... TOWARDS MY OBJECTIVE OF DEFEATING THE EMPIRE.

BECAUSE I'VE SWORN IN MY HEART TO KEEP WINNING... THE COUNTLESS BATTLES THAT MUST BE FOUGHT BEFORE THAT.



BECAUSE THAT'S THE MISSION I'VE INHERITED FROM MY FATHER... BECAUSE OF THAT...

I MUST...
DEFEAT THE ENEMY
IN FRONT OF ME.

DON'T EVEN THINK YOU'LL BE ABLE TO GET CLOSE TO ME EASILY!

...
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LIGHTNING COMES BEFORE I CAN GET HER INTO MY RANGE!
IT'S NO USE!
I MEANT "NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE."
DID I SAY "NOT EASILY?"
WE'LL KNOW WHETHER IT'S IMPOSSIBLE OR NOT ONCE I TEST IT.

SHOULD I GET CLOSER?
ALESS...
DO YOU THINK IT'S RECKLESS?
IT'S MORE LIKE SUICIDAL!
NOT REALLY.
OR, AT LEAST, THAT ISN'T MY PLAN.
WE CAN'T ATTACK FROM A DISTANCE, SO WE HAVE NO CHOICE.
I'LL TAKE THE ROLE OF WITHSTANDING HER LIGHTNING.

ALESS, I...!
YOU'VE JUST RECOVERED FROM YOUR WOUNDS, WHAT CAN YOU DO?
I WON'T LET YOU DO SUCH A DANGEROUS THING ALONE!
!
YOU LOOK FOR AN OPENING AND ATTACK HER.

DON'T WORRY.
I KNOW YOU WANT TO FIGHT ALONGSIDE ME.
HOWEVER, I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU HURT.

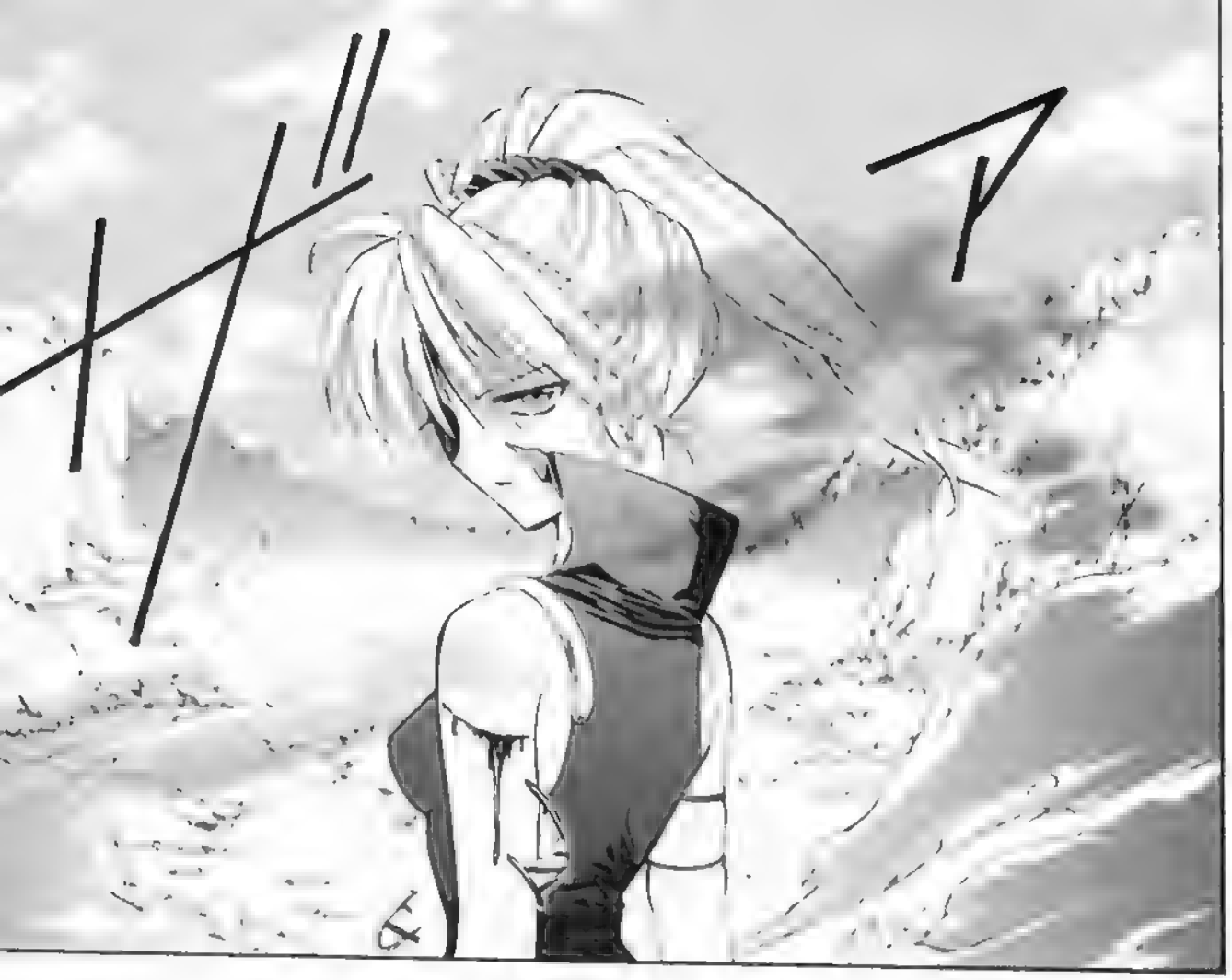
LET'S GO, ISHTAR!
I HAVE A WAY TO DEFEND AGAINST HER MAGIC.
STOP PLAYING TOUGH!
OH BUT I'M SERIOUS

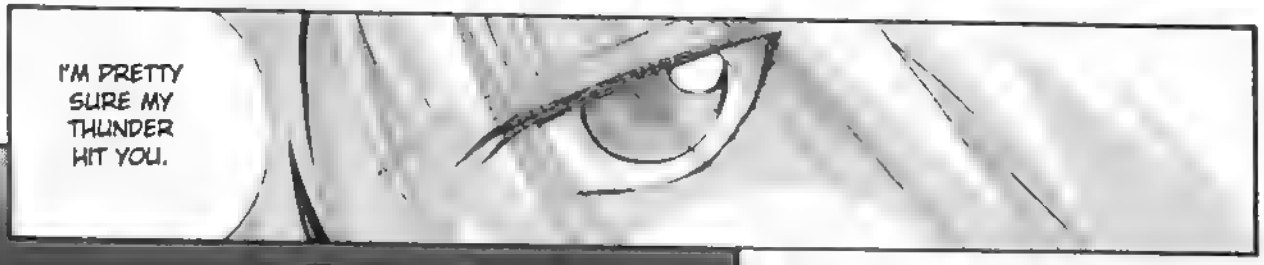
YOU CANNOT HURT ME!
ALESS!
THERE IS NO WAY FOR YOU TO AVOID THESE COUNTLESS THUNDER-BOLTS!
GET READY TO BECOME CHARCOAL!

ALESS!!
JUST A BLUFF? I KNEW YOU WERE PLAYING TOUGH.
I BELIEVE I TOLD YOU I WAS SERIOUS.
WHAT!?

GOOD JOB AVOIDING THAT.

HOWEVER, I STILL MANAGED TO HURT YOU.




I'M PRETTY SURE MY THUNDER HIT YOU.

I'LL MAKE YOU SHOW IT.

IN THAT CASE,

AND YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE DAMAGED THAN THAT.

WHO KNOWS?

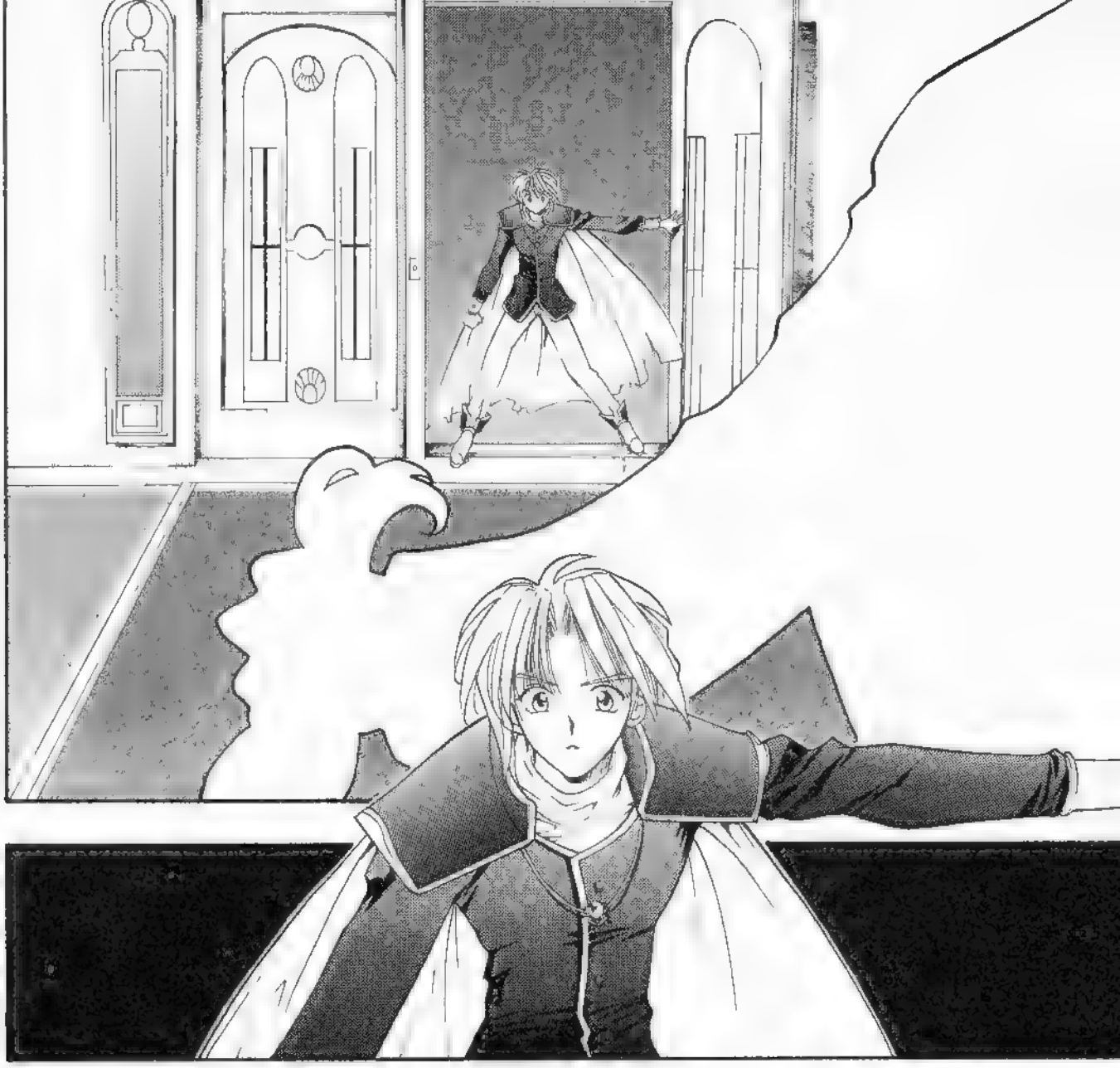
WHAT DID YOU DO, BLACK KNIGHT?

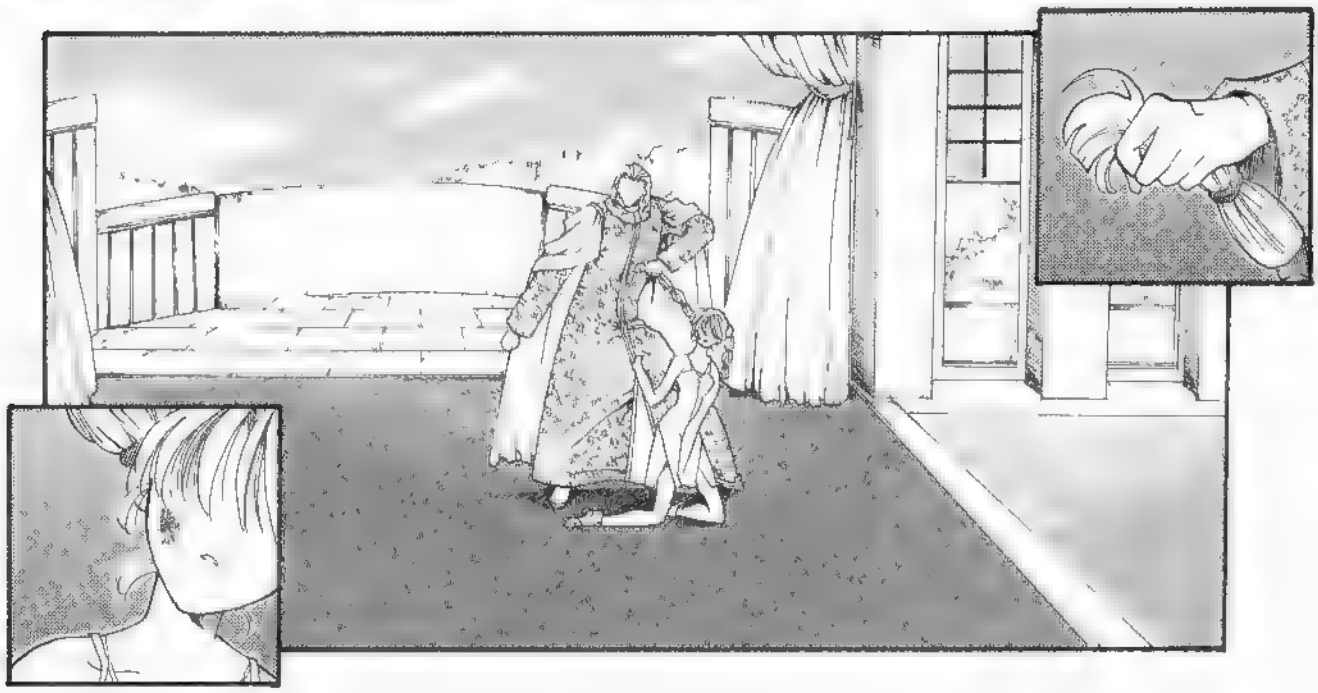
!?
THROUGH YOU,
WHA-
EARL CELICE!

ISHTAR!
PANT
PANT
NO! DON'T GET CLOSER TO ME!
TINNY!
PANT PANT
YOU BITCH!

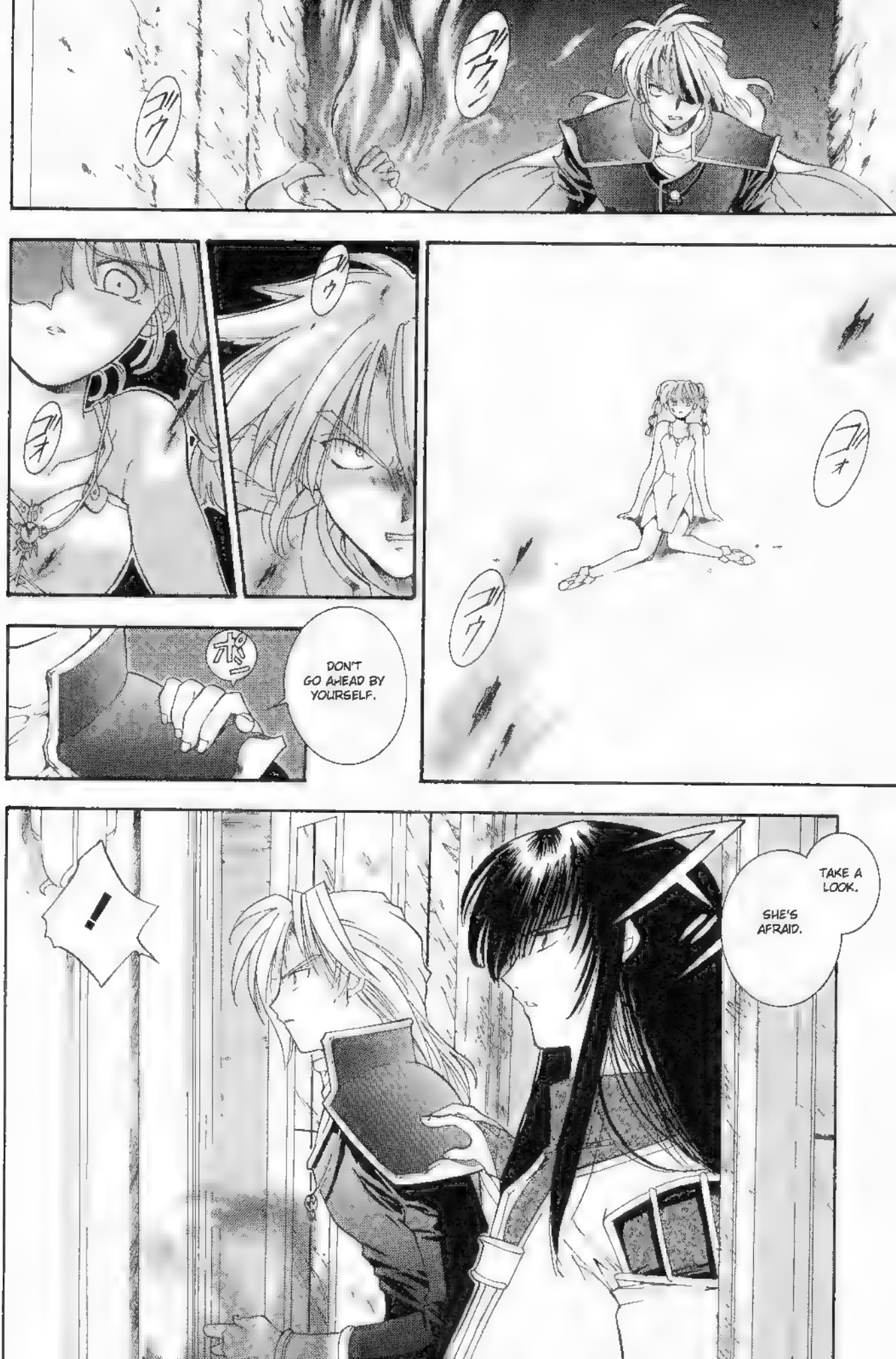
PANT
PANT
TINNY.
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
DID YOU TAKE CARE OF THE INVADERS?
UNCLE
AH...
WHAT IS IT?
DON'T TELL ME YOU FLED FROM THEM.

USE-LESS BRAT!
I-I'M SORRY!
I'M SORRY, UNCLE!
NOW YOU TELL ME YOU CAN'T PROTECT ME IN THIS STATE OF EMERGENCY?
EVEN THOUGH I CAREFULLY CULTIVATED YOUR MAGIC POWER...
UGH...
I LET YOU LIVE FOR THAT PURPOSE, AND THAT PURPOSE ONLY!





YOU'RE...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO TINNY?!
WHAT DO YOU THINK...
YOU'RE DOING...
!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DON'T GO AHEAD BY YOURSELF.
!
TAKE A LOOK.
SHE'S AFRAID.

I SUPPOSE YOU'RE FROM THE LIBERATION ARMY.

THAT'S RIGHT, BLUME.
IN THAT CASE, I PRESUME THE PRINCE OF LENSTER HAS COME AS WELL?

TINNY...

I HAVE COME, INDEED.
TO DEFEAT...
YOU.

LET'S SETTLE THIS.

WILL I RECLAIM MY FATHER-LAND?
OR WILL YOU PROTECT YOUR OWN KINGDOM?

AS WE BET THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS TO US...
THIS IS OUR FINAL DECISIVE BATTLE!

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STOOOOOOOP!!

C...
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UN...

W...
WHY...

HAHAHAHA! WHAT'S WRONG? WHY DID YOU HALT YOUR ATTACK?
COME, STAB ME WITH THAT SWORD OF YOURS!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? ARE YOU GOING TO STAB ME OR NOT?

HA...
HA
HA

HOW COULD HE...
HOW DIRTY...
HA
HA
HA

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, FOOLISH PRINCE OF LENSTER?
YOU CAN'T, RIGHT?
HOW NAIVE!
CAN YOU HARDEN YOUR HEART AND PIERCE MY CHEST - AND THIS GIRL'S?
LET GO OF ME!
I CAN'T STAND THIS ANY MORE! I'LL KILL THAT BASTARD!
I HAVE NO CLUE ABOUT WHAT THAT GIRL MEANS TO YOU, BUT...
ARE YOU FINE WITH THIS?
THINK ABOUT IT.

YOUR GREAT MAGIC POWER HAS BEEN NULLIFIED.
SHOULD YOU RELEASE YOUR FLAMES, BLUME WILL DIE... TOGETHER WITH THAT GIRL.
IN OTHER WORDS, A BY-BLOW. DID YOU GET IT NOW?

THEN!
JUST WHAT SHOULD I DO...?

...TCH.
WHY ARE YOU MAKING THAT FACE...
"AN INSOLENT GUY WHOSE CHEERFULNESS IS HIS ONLY REDEEMING FEATURE."
HA HA HA HA
THAT WAS MY FIRST IMPRESSION OF YOU.
NOT A VERY GOOD IMPRESSION, YOU'LL AGREE.
IN FACT, I DIDN'T THINK VERY HIGHLY OF YOU.
HOWEVER, YOU ENCOURAGED US...
AND SHOWED INTENSE WRATH.
THE INNER STRENGTH YOU'VE SHOWN THROUGH YOUR UNEXPECTED FACES...
MADE ME CHANGE MY OPINION, LITTLE BY LITTLE.

DON'T GRIEVE.
YOU CAN'T WIN ALL BATTLES THROUGH POWER ALONE.
I HAVE FAITH THAT YOU DON'T ONLY HAVE "POWER" INSIDE OF YOU.
GO.

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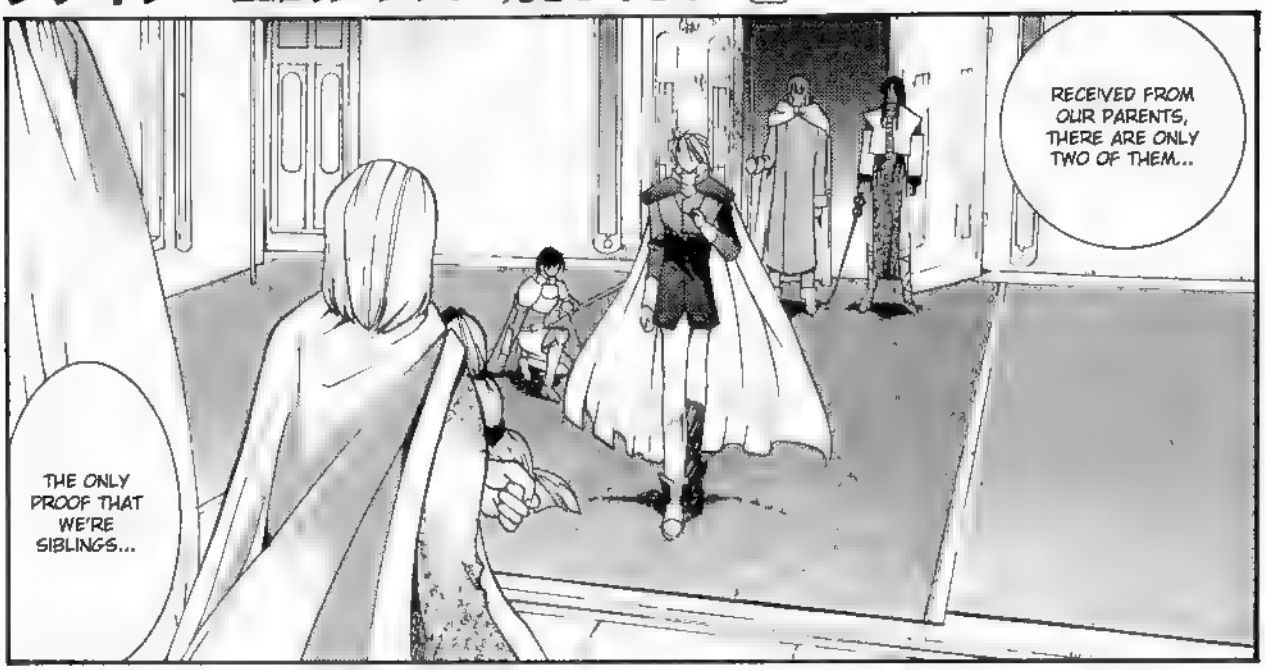
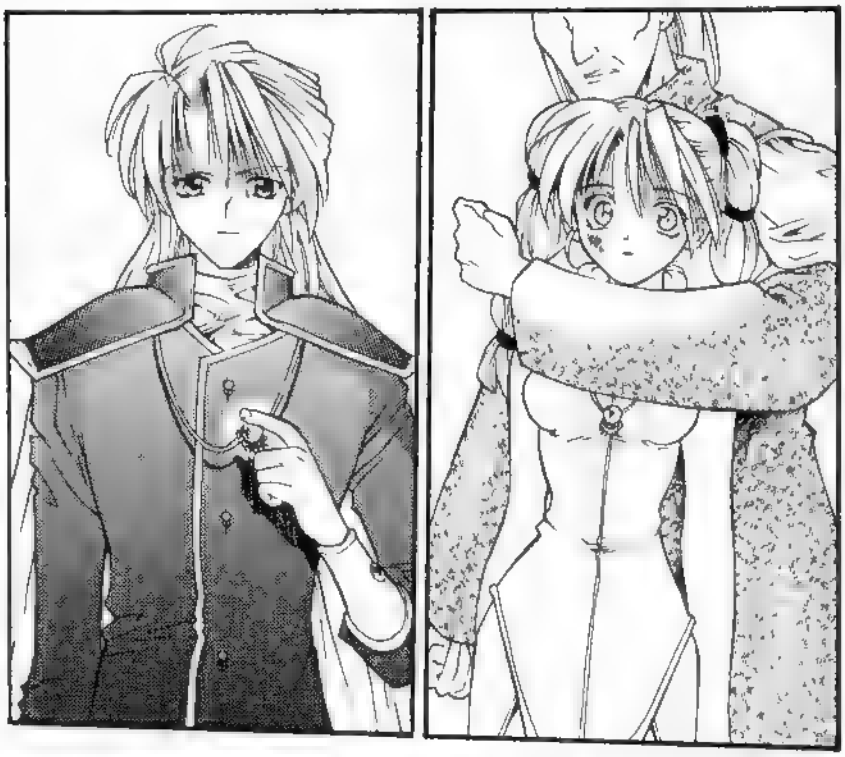
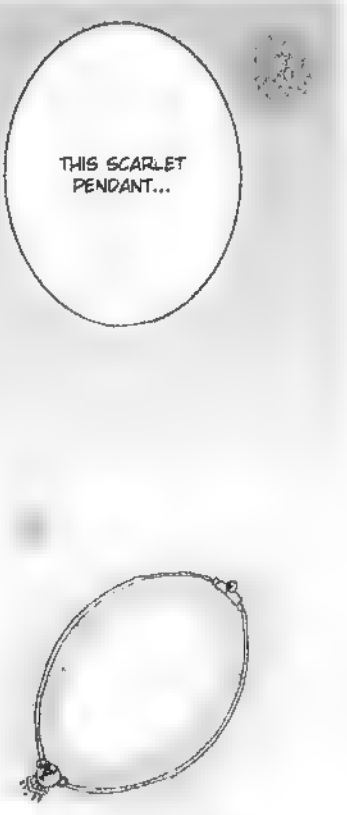
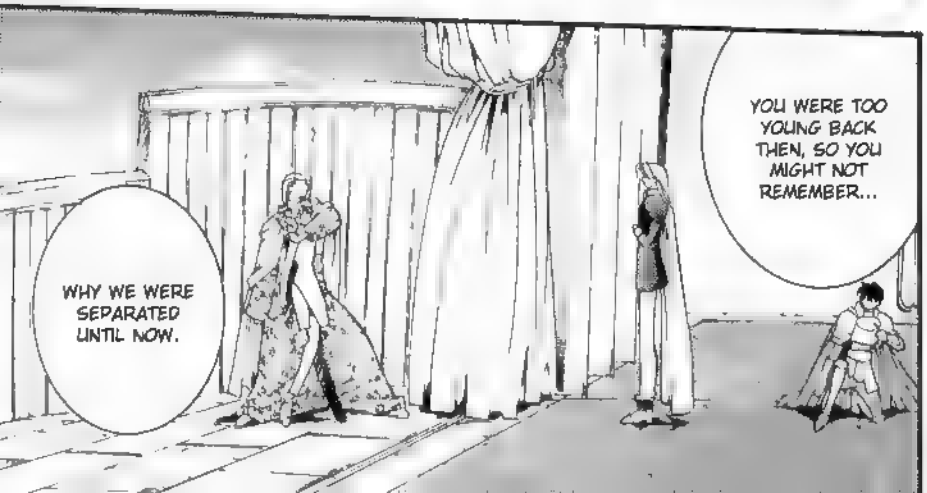
DON'T COME ANY CLOSER!
!
DON'T CRY, TINNY...
YOU DON'T NEED TO BE AFRAID.
CALM DOWN...
AND LOOK AT ME...

YOUR OLDER BROTHER.
HERE.


RECEIVED FROM OUR PARENTS, THERE ARE ONLY TWO OF THEM...
THE ONLY PROOF THAT WE'RE SIBLINGS...




THIS SCARLET PENDANT...

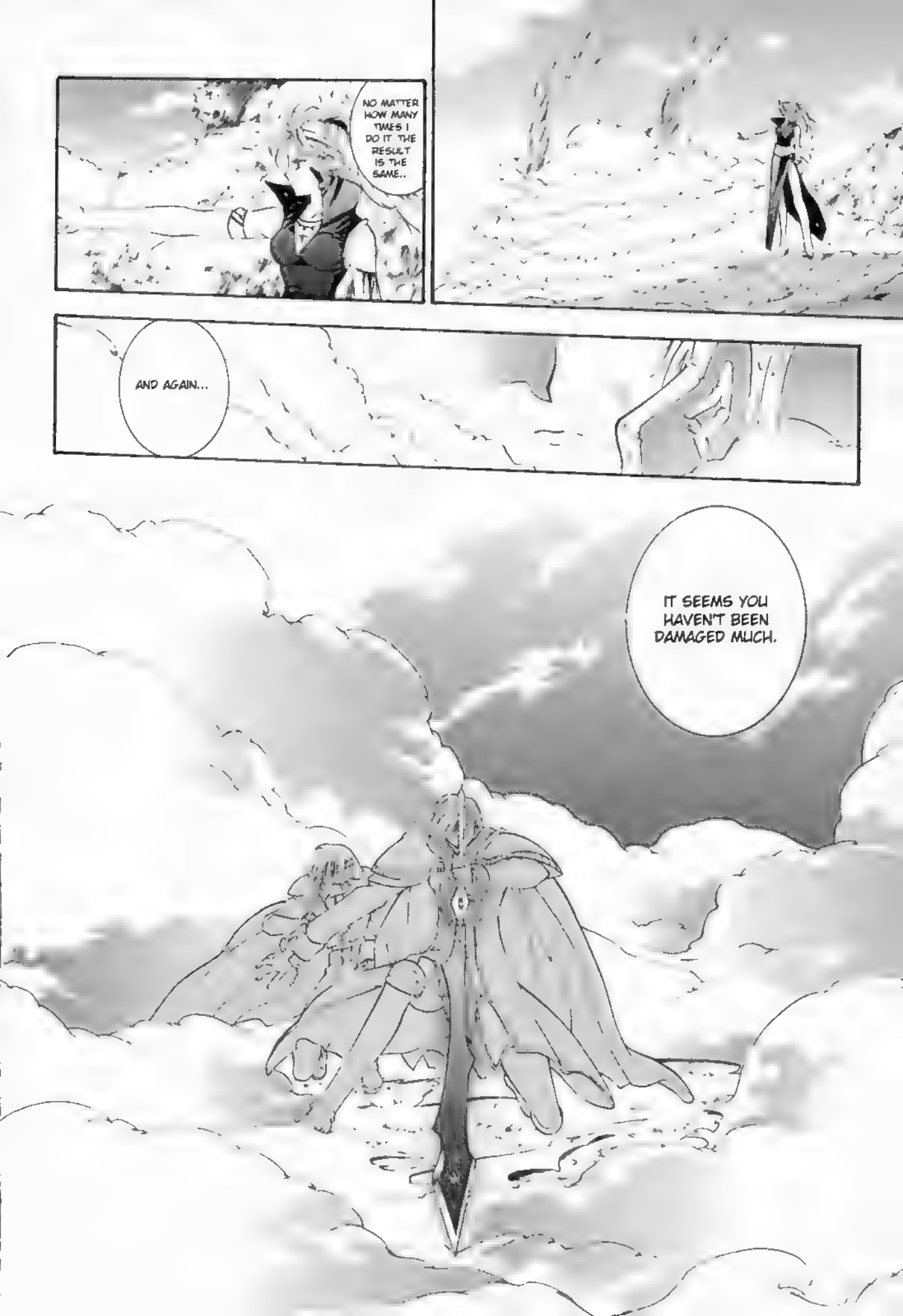

YOU WERE TOO YOUNG BACK THEN, SO YOU MIGHT NOT REMEMBER...
WHY WE WERE SEPARATED UNTIL NOW.

TINNY... THIS MAN, WHO HAS BEEN MAKING YOU SUFFER...
...
TOOK YOU AWAY... AND OUR MOTHER, AS WELL.
BUT DON'T BE SAD, TINNY.
I'LL BE BY YOUR SIDE FROM NOW ON... FOREVER.
FOREVER AND EVER...
MOTHER?
BUT MOTHER ISN'T IN THIS CASTLE...
I'M SURE SHE WAS MISTREATED BY THIS MAN WHILE YOU STILL COULDN'T TELL...
AND THEN...

LORD
BRO
THER
!!
WE'LL BE TOGETHER FOREVER.

LORD BROTHER!!
THEREFORE, I SHALL NOW COMMENCE MY UNILATERAL HOSTILITIES!
SINCE I HAVE A HOSTAGE, YOU CAN'T LAY A FINGER ON ME!
IT SEEMS YOU HAVEN'T REALIZED YOUR POSITION HERE...
YOU BETTER BE AFRAID.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO THANK HIM FOR RAISING YOU.
TINNY... NOW THAT YOU KNOW THIS MAN HAS KILLED YOUR MOTHER...

...
WE NEED YOUR COURAGE RIGHT NOW.
CELICE...
WHAT SHOULD I DO, CELICE?
WE CAN'T MOVE CARELESSLY NOW. ENDURE, FINN.
LORD SHANAN, THIS IS SO FRUSTRATING...
THE SITUATION IS GOING TO CHANGE VERY SOON.
I JUST HOPE WE'LL BE ABLE TO AVOID HIS MAGIC UNTIL THEN...


NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I DO IT THE RESULT IS THE SAME..
AND AGAIN...
IT SEEMS YOU HAVEN'T BEEN DAMAGED MUCH.

IT DOESN'T WANT YOUR THUNDER...
IT WANTS YOUR BLOOD.
THE DEMON SWORD MISTELTEIN CRAVES HUMAN BLOOD.

SO YOU'RE A DESCENDANT OF BLACK KNIGHT HEZUL, OF THE CRUSADERS.
DEMON SWORD MISTELTEIN...
SO YOUR ABNORMALLY HIGH MAGIC RESISTANCE IS BECAUSE OF THAT SWORD?

I'LL PROTECT MYSELF!
DON'T HURT YOURSELF BECAUSE OF ME!

HOW-EVER...
IT SEEMS YOU WERE A LITTLE TOO SLOW TO COVER HIM...

ALESS, IT'S ENOUGH.

CELICE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN WOUNDED.
ISHTAR...
NON-SENSE.
I'LL KILL YOU...
WELL, IT'S TIME...

FOR ME TO GET SERIOUS!

LORD LEVIN, THAT GIANT BALL OF LIGHTNING...
I SEE, SHE TOO...
GODDESS OF THUNDER... ISHTAR...
GIANT BALL OF LIGHT-NING...
I BELIEVE THE NAME OF THAT BALL OF LIGHTNING IS *THOR HAMMER.*
IT'S A LEGENDARY SPELL USABLE ONLY BY THE DIRECT DESCENDANTS OF THE CRUSADER "MAGE KNIGHT TORDO."

I'M AFRAID ...
BUT I MUST GO...
SO I CAN KNOW WHY... I'M FEELING LIKE THIS, AS WELL...
LORD LEVIN... RANA...
ハッ
JULIA, ARE YOU AWAKE?
AH, JULIA! I'M GLAD!
PLEASE...
TAKE ME TO WHERE LORD CELICE IS...